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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

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DOS Review Completed.

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FM GENERAL HAIG

TO R.T. KENNEDY, THE WHITE HOUSE

PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE VIA BUNKER CHANNEL IMMEDIATELY

TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON

FM HENRY A. KISSINGER

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

BT

THANK YOU FOR LAST NIGHT'S MESSAGE

AS REPORTED IN MY PREVIOUS MESSAGE, THE FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH THE OTHER SIDE WERE BALANCED BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY DISCUSSIONS. WHILE IN THE EARLIER MEETINGS THEY PUT EXTRAORDINARY EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL ISSUES, AT THE LAST MEETING THEY DISPLAYED A FAR GREATER WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MILITARY MATTERS IN SOME DETAIL.

SEVERAL OF OUR MEETINGS WERE LENGTHY AND TIME -CONSUMING DUE TO THEIR PLODDING AND DETAILED PRESENTATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE POLITICAL AREA. ON THE MILITARY SIDE THEY WERE INSISTENT AND UN-YIELDING IN THEIR DEMANDS THAT THE U.S. END ALL SUPPLIES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

ON BALANCE, FROM THE FIRST DAY THROUGH THE FOURTH, THERE WAS DECIDED MOVEMENT IN THEIR POSITION FROM MAJOR EMPHASIS ON SATISFYING POLITICAL DEMANDS TO GREATER AND GREATER EMPHASIS ON PURELY MILITARY CONDITIONS.

25X1

MY JUDGEMENT AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD BE THAT THEY APPEAR READY TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE IN PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

25X1

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2

25X1

- 1) THE NEED TO REGAIN AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE AND
2) THE NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON THE POLITICAL SIDE
WE, OF COURSE, INTEND TO HOLD FIRM IN THE POLITICAL AREA
BUT FOR TACTICAL REASONS WE MAY HAVE TO DISCUSS SOME OBLIGATIONS IN THIS
AREA.

I AM SENDING YOU ATTACHED TO THIS MESSAGE A POLITICAL PLAN
TABLED BY THE OTHER SIDE DURING THE MEETINGS. YOU CAN SHOW THIS TO
THIEU AS CONFIRMATION OF HANOI'S CURRENT THINKING ON THE POLITICAL
ISSUE.

F.Y.I. : IN POSTURING HIM FOR MY VISIT HOPEFULLY YOU CAN
STRIKE A BALANCE WHICH ON ONE HAND REASSURES HIM THAT WE ARE NOT
ABOUT TO ACCEPT ANY POLITICAL DEMANDS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN HIS OVER
THROW AND ON THE OTHER HAND KEEP SUFFICIENT HEAT ON HIM SO THAT HE
CANNOT ADOPT THE FRAME OF MIND THAT HE HAS FACED US DOWN AND THAT
HE CAN AFFORD TO FEND OFF SUCCESSFULLY WHATEVER SOLUTIONS MAY
EMERGE FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OTHER SIDE. I RECOGNIZE THIS IS
A DIFFICULT TASK BUT SUSPECT THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE THIEU MAY THINK
THAT HE ALONE CAN SET THE TERMS FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT WEEK.

WARM REGARDS.

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TN

EXCLUSIVE

EYES ONLY

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